

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 403

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION relative to anti-Asian bias incidents, including violence against Asian Americans.

WHEREAS, people of Asian descent have been targets of violence in the U.S. since their first arrival here in the mid-19th century; and

WHEREAS, while violence and hatred against minority groups are a sordid part of this nation's history, incidents involving violence and hatred against Asian Americans have recently increased in both number and severity; and

WHEREAS, the Stop AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Hate Project estimates that there have been roughly 3,800 anti-Asian bias incidents since March 2020, with the most horrifying forms of such incidents involving physical attacks, or even murder; and

WHEREAS, hate-fueled attacks on Asian Americans spiked across major U.S. cities last year, in some cases by triple-digit percentages, even as overall hate crimes declined; and

WHEREAS, there were 122 incidents of anti-Asian American hate crimes in sixteen of the country's most populous cities in 2020, an increase of almost 150 percent over the previous year; and

WHEREAS, this alarming trend has continued into 2021; and

WHEREAS, Asian American rights advocates attribute this unprecedented string of attacks to the previous administration's rhetoric blaming China for the deadly coronavirus and, more broadly, the scapegoating of Asian Americans by people frustrated or angered by the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, escalating geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China in general have also cast Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans as potential enemies; and

WHEREAS, these reasons for anti-Asian violence are founded on perceptions of Asian Americans as, on one hand, "forever foreigners," who never truly belong in the U.S. and, on the other hand, a "model minority" that is high-achieving but submissive; Asian Americans have worked against these stereotypes for decades; and

WHEREAS, our republic exemplifies the adage "Until we are all free, we are none of us free," and we, as Americans, must work together to end racism and racial violence in our society; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we denounce the anti-Asian bias incidents currently rampant in the U.S. and specifically condemn the acts of racial hatred and violence being committed against Asian Americans.